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THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL
OF
PHILATELY



AN ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. VII.] DECEMBER 1 & 15, 1873. [No. 95 & 96.

The New Volume.

With the present number will close Vol. VII of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY. It needs no comment on our part. We have endeavored to carry out the programme laid down at the beginning of the year, and we believe we have not failed. A look at the index will satisfy the most scrutinizing eye, that little has been left unsaid, if indeed anything. With this remark we leave it, and turn for a moment to the future.

It is needless to state, the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY will be continued, but with many marked improvements, in accordance with the increased growth in Philatelic knowledge.

What these improvements may be will not be marked by promises. Our readers care nothing for promises, but would choose rather that they be unexpectedly surprised, than that they be disappointed in unaccomplished hopes. One thing however, we will state, that the JOURNAL shall be published punctually on the 20th of each succeeding month, replete with all philatelic information in all departments of stamp collecting, particularly Revenues, Proprietaries and Locals. Further, although our circulation has increased, it is not the intention of our publishers to derive a revenue from the JOURNAL. The surplus, therefore will be devoted to enlarging the paper, commencing with the January number, and at no advanced cost to subscribers.

Thus, it will be seen, there is plenty of work to be done, but there are skilled hands to do it, and we are sure our Readers will be pleased.

THE EDITOR.

Newly Issued Stamps.

ANTIOQUIA has sent out a new type of the 5c, which differs from the others in having shaded, instead of solid, figures in the corners, a scroll in the bird's beak, and extremely small stars.

CABUL. The *Philatelic Circular* describes a new set of stamps reported to have been issued by the Ameer of Cabul in the early part of the year. They are circular, but the round appearance is taken off by sundry ornaments outside the circle. The centre of each contains a tiger's head, and the value in Indian characters. They are all alike, but separately engraved, and the circular disc around the head is embellished by a flowing tracery, over which characters are engraved. This is similar to the ground-work of the rare Koorshedjah, and to that which fills the centre of the 1 anna oblong Decan, and is essentially Oriental. The value is in the centre, in the three lowest values above the tiger's head, in the two highest below it. There are

1 anna, black on thickwhite laid.

2 " " " " " "

4 " " " " " "

8 " marone, } on thin paper, unsurfaced, no

1 " " } water mark.

The 1 an. and 2 an. both show dotted circles, the 4 an. shows only the outer one dotted, whilst 8 an. and 1 r. have only plain circles.

CUBA.—The 10 centimes revenue, now serves for postage stamps, letters from the Island bearing evidence of this fact. The reason for this, it is presumed, is that the colony has run short of the 10c. postals, and therefore has recourse to the revenues of the same value.

HELIGOLAND. The ½ sch. which appeared originally with the head on a green disc, and a rose colored frame, now appears with the colors renewed.

NICARAGUA. With the actual circulation of the 1 cen. brown, comes the 2c. in a new shade of blue.

QUEENSLAND, has changed the color of the 1 sh. to claret.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, issues the nine pence in dull mauve.

SAINT HELENA, puts the water mark CC & crown on the 6 pence, and colors it slate blue.

SIERRA LEONE, completes the set with the 2 p. bright mauve.

TRANSVALL. The shilling stamps are now cut in half, to supply the lack of the 6 p.

TURK'S ISLAND.—An English contemporary is of the opinion that the stamps of this Island will be suppressed on its annexation to Jamaica.

EGYPT, it is rumored, is about to issue a set of new stamps.

GRIQUALAND WEST, in the diamond-field country of South Africa, has, according to the same authority, ordered a set of stamps for its exclusive use, as previously the stamps of the Cape and of Orange Free States have been doing postal duty.

POST CARDS.—Spain, Shanghai, Finland, Servia, Wurtemberg, German Empire and Berlin have issued varieties of their respective postal cards. As these will be fully noted in all their details and varieties in the continuation of the article on Postal Cards, it is scarce necessary to call particular attention to them at this time, further than to indicate their existence.

VICTORIA.—A new two pence for this prolific Colony lies before us ; the design consists of a profile portrait of Victoria to left, within an upright oval band, VICTORIA above, TWO PENCE below, the spaces between being filled in with engine-turned scroll work. A Greek-lined pattern fills up the corners, the whole stamp being printed in a rich light mauve. The execution is rather coarse, owing probably to the softness of the paper on which it is used.

From *Exchange and Market*, published in this city, we extract the following item of philatelic news :

MEXICO.—Through the courtesy of the American Bank Note Company we are able to present our readers with the type of a new series of postage stamps which they are preparing for the Mexican Government. The design presents the time honored visage of the *cure* Hidalgo, which is given in profile as in the current set. Our wood engraving, although executed by one of the first artists in the country, gives but a faint idea of the beauty of the design and workmanship of the original, which is one of the happiest efforts of this celebrated company. We merely hope their contract will prove more profitable to them than the last obtained from this government for stamps, which we understand they were never paid for.* It will be noticed that our engraving is taken from a stamp of a value of never before employed in this country by any government, either Imperial or Republican. The same company are preparing a set of adhesive revenue stamps for Mexico. Heretofore they have only used stamped paper.



*We refer to the beautiful set of four perforated stamps, some few of which were used in 1867.

The Editor's Note Book.

NOTE ONE.

MONTENEGRO OR TZERNAGORA.

Montenegro, Black Mountain, (*Turkish*, Karadagh; *Albanian*, Mal Zeze, or Mal Eseye) is a small independent principality in Turkey, near the Gulf of Cattaro and Lake of Scutari, between lat. 42° 10' N., and 46° 56' N., long. 18° 41' E. and 20° 21' E. It is bounded on the north by the Turkish province of Herzegovina and Bosina, east and south by Albania, and west by the Dalmatian circle of Cattaro. It includes the Eastern Kutska district which seceded in 1843 from Montenegro. The area is about 1,500 square miles, with a population of nearly 120,000, chiefly Slavic, one-fifth of whom are fighting men. It is divided into eight Departments, or *Nahia*, each composed of several communes. The capital is Cettigue.

The surface forms a series of elevated ridges of limestone rocks, with lofty limestone peaks, some of which are 5,000 or 6,000 feet high, and are generally covered with valuable timber.

The total number of settlements is between 200 and 300, mostly villages situated in hollows and on the slopes of the mountains, with the houses or huts in many instances detached and scattered. In the most desolate parts of the country, the Montenegro huts are even more miserable than Irish mud cabins. The people bake their bread in the ashes without covers. Chimneys are almost unknown, as well as watches and clocks. According to an English writer, the inhabitants "appear muscular, strong and hardy, and the knotted trees, as they grow amid the crags, seem to be emblematical of their country, and in character with the tough, sinewy fibre of the people." The men attend to the tillage of the land, but never lay aside their arms and never undress during the night, being always ready for marauding expeditions, and for encounters with the Turks. All the inferior drudgery of indoor and out-door work is performed by women.

The chief occupation next to agriculture, is fishing; but the favorite pursuit is pillage and war, for which they are well trained from earliest childhood. Forays for cattle they consider feats of chivalry. Their love of country is great. When any danger threatens it, they sink all personal enmities, and like gallant Republicans, consider it a happiness and a grace of God to die in battle.

The principal market is Cattaro, to which the produce is carried by the women, carts being unknown. Though so near the sea, there is no

port, and no outlet to the shore, and the Montenegrins are dependent upon the Austrian government for permission to pass the goods intended for exportation or received from abroad by way of the Adriatic.

The daily wages of a laborer are a piece of 20 carantain, equal to 16 cents. This and other Austrian coins and Turkish paras (chiefly used as female ornaments), are the only currency, no money being coined in Montenegro.

The language of Montenegro is a very pure dialect of the Slavic. The people themselves call it a Servian dialect, and Count Krasinski states in his "Montenegro and the Slavonian in Turkey," (1855), that "it is considered the nearest of all Slavonian dialects to the original Slavonic tongue, *i. e.* that with which the Scriptures were translated by St. Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century, and which still continues to be the sacred tongue of all the Slavonic Nations who follow the Eastern Church."

In ancient times Montenegro formed part of Illyricum, but was afterwards a district of the old Kingdom of Servia, which in the 14th century extended from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, from the Archipelago to the Gulf. Towards the end of that century King Lazarus lost his throne and his life, and Servia became tributary to the Porte. Montenegro, or Zita, as it was then called, secured its independence.

In 1623, Turkey sent Suleyman, pasha of Scutari, and a powerful army, into Montenegro, but he was repulsed with severe loss. In the latter half of the 17th century, Danilo Petrovitch was elected Vladiska or Prince Bishop, and the power has continued in the Petrovitch family. At the beginning of the 18th century, the Montenegrins sought the protection of Russia against Turkey, and made several incursions into the territory of the enemy. Defeat and disaster followed to the Montenegrins, but finally the Turks were driven out of Montenegro. At intervals afterwards severe wars took place between Turkey and Montenegro, and finally in 1796, the virtual independence of the country was secured. At the close of the 18th and beginning of the present century, the Montenegrins aided the Russians against the French. Then followed another unsuccessful invasion by the Turks; internal commotion and bloodshed; the payment of the tribute to the Porte by the Emperor of Russia, on his accession in 1825; another invasion by the Turks to recover one of the Departments which had joined Montenegro, in which the Turks were again repulsed; and troubles with Austria which were terminated by the treaty of 1840, by which the boundary of the country was defined.

From that time however, until the death of the Vladiska (1857), the country was again distracted by skirmishes with the Turks. Danilo, after having received in St. Petersburg, in due form, the title and dig-

nity of Prince Bishop, afterwards commenced his reformatory measures by separating the religious from the civil power, assuming the throne as the first secular prince, under the name of Danilo I., which caused Russia to withdraw her subsidies (though she afterwards paid them into the Montenegrin treasury). These and the imposition of heavy taxes caused much agitation in the country, which the Turks skilfully used in promoting insurrection in the provinces, and in reasserting their claims to the territory. Finally, it was only by the intervention of Austria and the powers, in 1853, that peace was restored. Danilo sought in vain to obtain the acknowledgment of the sovereignty of Montenegro by Europe. His endeavors to establish a permanent settlement with Austria were alike unsuccessful, while at home his government was obstructed by conspiracies. More trouble took place in 1858, with Turkey, since which time the country has been in an unsettled condition. Danilo was assassinated August 11, 1868, and was succeeded to the throne by Nicolo Petrovitch, who had for four years previously been a pupil in the Lyceum of Louis le Grand, in Paris, and is described as an accomplished young man, of great independence of character.

It is his portrait, it is assumed, that adorns the Montenegrin stamps which nobody knows anything about, at least about the statement of the currency. We had taken the ground that the values on the stamps as first expressed in Novtch, is legitimate. The burden of proof seems to support this idea, but before pronouncing finally, we must await the arrival of the new comers, if, indeed, they are to come.

Stamp Collecting in the Future.

BY W.

I see a great chance for the Future of Philately in America.—F. A. P.

II.—PLAN FOR MOUNTING.

(Continued from page 189.)

It will be remembered that the first, in fact the only important, essential required in collecting stamps, as indicated in the previous portions of this article, is SYSTEM, which embraces as its prime element, UNIFORMITY. If the truth of these is admitted, and the suggestions concerning them followed by all amateurs, it will very readily appear that in mounting stamps, the use of some SYSTEM is obvious, while UNIFORMITY will be indispensable. It requires very few arguments indeed to prove that be a collection never so valuable in point of quality and quantity of stamps, much of its beauty and value will be diminished if no care be taken in its arrangement and classification. Much of that pleasure and satisfaction, so necessary in keeping alive interest in

the subject, will gradually wear away and eventually disappear ; this, more than anything else, perhaps, accounts for the many fine collections which have been discontinued or broken up ; the owner lacked arrangement in his album, uniformity in mounting his stamps ; became indifferent and eventually annoyed, and finally was as anxious to dispose of what he was before so eager to collect.

A systematic plan for mounting should contain two parts : CLASSIFICATION and ARRANGEMENT ; but it must be borne in mind that in the opinion of many eminent Philatelists the perfection of the plan cannot be attained by the use of prepared albums, at least in the hands of followers of the advanced scientific school.

There is no intention to decry any album. If the question were raised, it must be admitted that the albums of the present day are an immense benefit to the Philatelic world. Without them there would be few collectors. On the other hand, owing to the fact that they all contain marked spaces for the stamps issued, they are more or less limited in their design, and moreover leave very little room for invention on the part of the collector, who might fancy some little classification of his own. It is true that the Albums now made contain a plentiful supply of blank leaves for the insertion of varieties, etc. ; but here comes one great objection, the destruction of that continuity which seeks to have the normal issues and their varieties in juxtaposition. However, the import of the plan is not so appalling as to deter users of prepared Albums ; though many of its features cannot be used in them, still the mounting proper can be employed wherever a stamp can be affixed.

One thing more before proceeding to the discussion of the question, and that is the classification of stamps. Some years ago a system was presented which gained several adherents, and was known as the "Chronological System." Instead of arranging by countries, the amateur was expected to arrange by years ! Perhaps a more clumsy method it would be impossible to devise ; for apart from the continuous repetition which must ensue as a matter of course, and the destruction of the sequence of values—it has not always held that a country's issue has been emitted and completed at the same time—a vast amount of knowledge impossible to the many and unnecessary, would be required in order to attain anything approaching to correctness. In truth such a system is merely a dictionary of postal dates.

The "Alphabetical plan" is really an excellent one, compensating, as it does, for a lack of geographical knowledge. By its use the collector need not cudgel his brains, or ransack his atlas for the location or Angola, or Heligoland, or Montenegro, but turn at once to the A's, of the H's, or the M's, and there find room.

The best CLASSIFICATION, and the one advocated in this article, is collecting by Continents, the countries of each Continent being classed alphabetically. This may be called the CONTINENTAL SYSTEM. Apart from its simplicity, it has furthermore the advantage of exciting Geographical research, one of the features which promoters of collecting are always prone to hold up for popular approbation. And it must be confessed that some higher motive should prevail than the mere assortment of pieces of colored paper, or the gratification of an hour's leisure.

And now to describe in detail the several features of the PLAN FOR MOUNTING. If the collector fancies canceled stamps, let considerable care be taken in the selection of fine clean specimens, having the obliterating marks as faint as possible. By no means use any preparation which pretends to remove the cancelation, as by so doing the colors of many fine specimens are more or less destroyed. Apart from this, there is no merit in any preparation which makes the stamps what they are not, and forces the collector to deception. In removing the specimens from any paper or mount to which they adhere, unusual care and considerable ingenuity are required. Soaking and warm water should be avoided, as there is a tendency to force the gum into the texture of the paper, and give it that semi-transparent, greasy appearance so destructive to the clearness of the color. The best plan is to apply soft water with a brush to the back of the paper, allowing sufficient time for the gum to soften, when the paper or mount may be easily removed, thus obtaining one desideratum which the amateur always seeks—the preservation of the original gum. This is not so trivial as it may appear; and those who are apt to sneer because of the great trouble taken for little things, should remember that if postage stamps are worth collecting, they are worth preserving; and furthermore that the neatness and patience exercised in their proper mounting will produce results amply compensating for the labor and time spent in preparation. Again, let it be known that the gum is the only sure means of deciding between originals and reprints, as in the case of the early Hanover's, with their delicate, rose-tinted adhesive matter, and it will readily appear that this caution is well advised.

To be Continued.

MEXICO.—Too late to insert in the proper place we are enabled to give the colors and values of the new Mexican, which are as follows: 5 cents brown, 10c. black, 25c. blue, 50c. green, 1 dollar carmine.

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3 " "	10
6 " "	10

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2 " "	5
3 " "	1
6 " "	5
12 " "	10
15 " "	15
24 " "	10
30 " "	10

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

2 cents, black on yellow	10
8 " "	8
6 " "	10

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Similar to current U. S.

1 cent, vermillion	3
2 " "	3
3 " "	2
6 " "	2
12 " "	10
15 " "	10
24 " "	10
20 " "	25
30 " "	25

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

1 cent, brown	5
2 " "	3
3 " "	2
6 " "	2
7 " "	15
10 " "	5
12 " "	10
15 " "	10
24 " "	25
30 " "	10
90 " "	16

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Similar to current U. S.

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3 " "	5
6 " "	10
10 " "	15
12 " "	10
15 " "	15

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Similar to current U. S.

1 cent, red	5
3 " "	5
6 " "	5
15 " "	15
30 " "	25

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

1 cent, red	5
3 " "	10

JUSTICE.

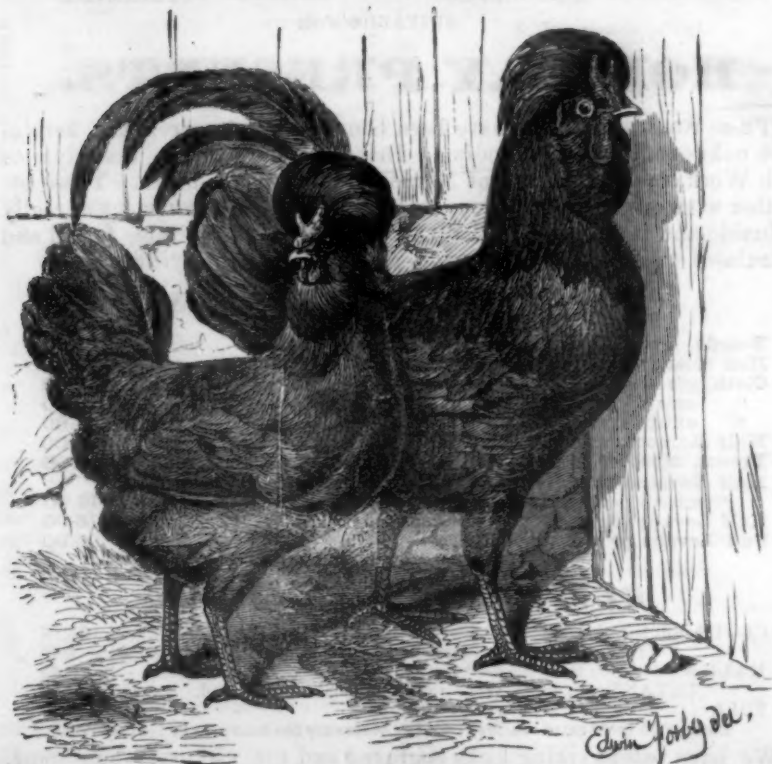
Similar to current U. S.

3 cent, purple	10
6 " "	10
30 " "	25

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